Course Description:

Welcome to SOSC 303: Cultural Concepts!

In this class we will explore the fundamental concepts of human cultural development, using a comparative study of adaptation, social organization, religious and other ideological systems in contemporary global and non-Western societies. With a multidisciplinary approach, the course covers the biological basis of human social behavior, fossil evidence for human evolution, and relevant ethnographic and archaeological examples of human social evolution and the development of the concept of culture in anthropological studies. Using a multifaceted approach, involving class lectures, videos, readings, local field trips, and assignments, this class will help you to develop an understanding of important anthropological concepts related to culture and help you to develop tools for utilizing these concepts in your future careers. Required for Liberal Studies majors, this is also an approved Non-Western course.

Required Materials:

Textbook (Provided in Blackboard [Bb] Learn):

Kottak, Conrad Phillip  

Other Materials:

- Computer, Internet access, Library, notebook, pens, pencils, stapler, etc.
- Software (can be purchased inexpensively with your student ID at the AS Bookstore):
  - Microsoft Office Suite (especially Word and PowerPoint)
  - Adobe Acrobat Professional
- Flash/thumb drive dedicated to this class (you will turn this in for one of your assignments)
- Your Bb Learn account for SOSC 303
  - Please Note: Students will be required to access and make use of Bb Learn for successful completion of this course. Reading materials, course materials, assignments, and most communication with your classmates and me outside of class will take place using Bb Learn. Please talk with me early in the semester if you have issues with using Bb Learn.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of your student rights and responsibilities:
http://www.csuchico.edu/curriculum/AcademicDepartmentManual/Student_Rights_and_Responsibilities.shtml
Student Learning Outcomes for Social Sciences at CSU, Chico
1. Written Communication: Students can express ideas in concise, coherent and grammatically correct prose.
2. Oral Communication: Students can deliver effective presentations using appropriate academic discourse and technologies.
3. Quantitative Reasoning: Students can interpret, analyze, and display quantitative information.
4. Diversity: Students will demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural, ethnic, and social groups.
5. Information Literacy: Students can locate, evaluate and use needed information and sources in an ethical and legal manner.
6. Critical Thinking: Students can apply theories to real world situations in a reasoned and reflective manner by utilizing evidenced based methods from multiple disciplines.

Expectations:

I. Attendance

- **Attendance in class is required.** Your success in this class depends upon your physical and mental presence in class. I take roll at the beginning of class, and I expect you be here on time. If you are not present when roll is taken, you will be marked absent for the day.

II. Classroom Etiquette

- **Cell Phones should be silenced** prior to the beginning of the class. Please save texting and games for when you are not in class.
- **Laptops, Smartphones, and Tablets.** Please limit your use of these helpful aids to tasks related to this class only.
- **Be polite and respectful to each other and me,** even if you do not agree with a viewpoint given in class. Learning about other people, their cultures, and their belief systems requires open thinking and thoughtful discussion of the themes that will be presented in your readings and in class.
- **Communicate with your classmates and me.** Please share your thoughts, questions, and jokes with everyone in class. Try to form study groups with other classmates outside of class time. Your classmates and I are your best allies for your own success in this class. If a situation in class or in your personal life arises, come and talk to me about it. I am willing to listen and help if I can.

III. Educational Commitment

- **Be Committed to your education!** I expect you to be prepared for each class:
  - Read assigned readings prior to class and participate in class discussions and projects.
  - Manage your academic, social, and professional schedules in order to complete work on time.
  - Turn your assignments in on the date they are due. *Late work will receive a 40% deduction.*
  - Ask for help if you need it. Form study groups with classmates, use writing tutors for additional help with proofreading and refinement, and come and see me during office hours.
- **You are responsible for your own grade in this class.**
- Special Note regarding the **Americans with Disabilities Act:**
  - If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Please also contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as they are the designated department responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services for students with disabilities. ARC will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. The ARC is located in Student Services Center 170; or by phone, 530-898-5959, or email arcdept@csuchico.edu.
Assignments:

I. Reading Assignments and Class Lectures (MTE, FE) 200 points:
Review the attached Reading Schedule. Class Lectures are based on these readings, but also incorporate other relative information. I strongly suggest that you take both reading and lecture notes to help you join in during class discussions and to use for studying for exams. You will be able to use a one page, hand-written “Cheat Sheet” for your exams.
- MTE – Midterm Exam (100 points)
- FE – Final Exam (100 points)

II. Journal (J) 100 points:
I will give you ten topics this semester with which you will type a one page, double-spaced, journal entry (20 lines of typed text). Often these topics are related to important themes presented in class or readings given through Bb Learn. You will be graded on effort, length of writing, and clear articulation of your thoughts. You will turn the first five topics in together before the mid-term exam and the second five topics before the final exam.
- J1 – First 5 topics (50 Points)
- J2 – Second 5 topics (50 Points)

III. Research Project (RP) 100 points:
You will have one research project this semester. Working in small groups, you will give a presentation on the results of your research based on a subject introduced in your text. Additionally, you will each provide an annotated bibliography of relevant research materials utilizing relevant scholarly research materials. A separate assignment sheet will be given detailing the specifics and expectations of this assignment. You will be graded on your teamwork, ability to clearly articulate topical concepts, and organization, research, and writing skills. Your grade on this assignment will reflect both your individual and team-work efforts.
- RP –Research Project (100 Points)

IV. Class Participation (CP) 100 points: You will be graded for class participation throughout the semester. These assignments will require you to follow directions and cooperate with one another in order for you to be successful on the assignment:
- CP1 – CP7 (points ranging from 10-20 points per assignment)

V. Extra Credit (XC):
Various forms of extra credit assignments are available to help to you work towards earning the grade that you want to receive in class. I advise that you use extra credit assignments as a supplemental means of earning points, NOT as a replacement for entire assignments. Please refer to the Extra Credit Assignment section for more information.

**Late Policy: All Assignments Turned in Late will receive an Automatic 40% Point Deduction**

**Last Day to Turn in Late Assignments: Wednesday, May 10th (During Class)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>-Go over syllabus/First week business -Introductions</td>
<td>MFH Ch. 1</td>
<td>CP1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-Culture -Ethics in Cultural Studies -Methods of Ethnographic fieldwork</td>
<td>MFH Ch. 2, MFH Ch. 3</td>
<td>(Give J1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>-Biological Development of Culture in Humans -Early Human Cultural Adaptations and evolution</td>
<td>Supplemental Readings</td>
<td>CP2 (Give RP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>-Early Human Cultural Adaptations and evolution -Archaeological Culture History</td>
<td>Supplemental Readings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-Archaeological Culture History</td>
<td>Supplemental Readings</td>
<td>CP3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>-Communication and Language</td>
<td>MFH Ch. 4</td>
<td>CP4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Review Mid-Term Exam!</td>
<td></td>
<td>J1 Due MTE</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>-Economic Systems -Political Systems</td>
<td>MFH Ch. 5, MFH Ch. 6</td>
<td>(Give J2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>-Families, Kinship, and Marriage</td>
<td>MFH Ch. 7</td>
<td>CP5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>-Gender and Sexuality</td>
<td>MFH Ch. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>-Religion</td>
<td>MFH Ch. 9</td>
<td>CP6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-The Arts</td>
<td>Supplemental Reading</td>
<td>J2 Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>-Ethnicity and Race -Globalization</td>
<td>MFH Ch. 10, 11, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>RP Presentations</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>RP Due CP7</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>RP Presentations</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>XC</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Finals Week!</td>
<td></td>
<td>FE (TBA)</td>
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Extra Credit Assignments

All extra credit assignments are based on educational and enriching experiences that you have outside of class and require that you devote additional time, money and/or effort to earn extra points that will be added at the end of the semester to your total points accumulated. The goal is to experience something and then write about it, relating what you experienced to subjects that we cover in class. You may do as much extra credit as you wish.

Decide ahead of time that you will attend an event or a location to have an experience that you can write about (these locations/events are best attended with friends/family). Take notes while you are there; relate what you see and experience with what we are learning in class. When you get home, add your overall impressions of the event/location to your notes. Later, use these notes to write up to 2 pages about the event/location, connecting what you observed and learned with any subject matter presented in class and in readings.

Each extra credit is worth a maximum of 10 points, dependent on length, analysis, and articulate description of the experience and its relationship to class subjects. Points will be deducted for not connecting experiences/observations with class subjects. You may turn these in at any time during the semester, but the last day I will accept them is Wednesday, May 10th.

Suggestions:

I. Museums/Art Galleries
   - Bidwell Mansion, Chico
   - Chico Museum, Chico
   - Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology, CSU Chico
   - Janet Turner Print Museum
   - Gateway Science Museum
   - Oroville Chinese Temples and Museum, Oroville
   - Turtle Bay Museum, Redding
   - Art Galleries (artist receptions are the most fun)
   - Any non-local museums or galleries of your choice

II. Events
   - Any Chico State-sponsored events or workshops
   - Festivals or special events of your choice
   - Music concerts, theater productions, or other performances of your choice

III. Outdoor Adventures
   - Upper Bidwell Municipal Park, Chico
   - Bille Park, Paradise
   - Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, Oroville
   - Sacramento River
   - Mt. Lassen National Volcanic Park
   - Mt. Shasta
   - Outdoor Adventures of your choice

*** The last day to turn in Extra Credit Assignments is Wednesday, May 10th, during class.
You are responsible for your own grades!
Please keep track of your grades on the following grade-sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>ID Code</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Your Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>___________</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>J1</td>
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<td>J2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>CP1</td>
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<td>Extra Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points Earned</td>
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<td>500</td>
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Please note that **Final Letter Grades** will be awarded as per total accrued points:

- 100 - 95% = 500-475 = A
- 94 - 90% = 474-446 = A-
- 89 - 87% = 445-431 = B+
- 86 - 83% = 430-411 = B
- 82 - 80% = 410-396 = B-
- 79 - 76% = 395-376 = C+
- 75 - 70% = 375-346 = C
- 69 - 51% = 345-251 = D
- 0 - 50% = 250 and below = F